(part of a letter from R D Webb — Nov. 13/71)

the mob of Catholic Irish who stuck to them through thick & thin. Nothing can show all who have eyes to see them the utter absence of principle & moral self respect that are the sure fruit of an education where the priests have been the only teachers. I heartily congratulate you at the defeat of the Ring & at the Republican victory — but I hope these will ~~not~~ be followed up by a complete rout & the "eternal vigilance" which is indispensable ~~to~~ in order to secure the fruits of victory.

I am sincerely sorry for the way W. Phillips is going on — & in my judgment tarnishing the splendours of his earlier career. I remember that long before the war & before ~~the~~ anyone dreamed of the battle being so soon won, I was struck by a certain extravagance in the tone of his eloquence that seemed to me unworthy of his reputation. I dont like to think of his present inferiority to his former self — but facts are stubborn things. His personal fascination is doubtless great, for when I was with you, I remarked that to the best of my judgment, a great numerical majority of the old abolitionists, especially the women, were his devoted admirers. For myself my judgment goes with the minority.

E. Q. is very kind in sending me papers — among others Tilton's "Golden Age". In the last that came I found the following passages in a paragraph about Phillips that you will I doubt not thank me for copying for you:—

"Wendell Phillips is nothing if not sensational, & his oratory owes half its brilliancy to his fears. He is always agitated with alarm, & turns from weeping rhetorical tears over a present calamity to predict a new despair. He has been addicted to this bad habit so long that it has become a chronic disorder of his brain & people have come to expect the blackest pictures from his pen & the most startling declarations from his lips; & one of his speeches that did not represent the Republican party as doomed, & society as on the brink of dissolution, wd be as uncharacteristic & disappointing as one of Dr Cumming's sermons that shd omit the awful crash of worlds. He wants to make the Republican party a prohibitory party which shall 'take the rumseller, wholesale & retail, & strangle him in the face of the people.' What sort of republicanism wd that be? Mr P. is a Republican by conviction, but an autocrat by constitution, & is always in a fever because he cannot promote universal ends by absolutist methods, & despotize in behalf of the Democracy he has taken under his classical patronage but to which he does not belong." — Golden Age, vol. 1, no 35, p. 1.

How print does expand when you attempt to transcribe it!

ms. B.1.6 v.15, p.135